

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:TJWAJDA:RLW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING RUHQHQA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311415

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, XP, GW

SUBJECT: FRG INTEREST IN SOUTH PACIFIC

REF: SUVA 1342

1. FRG MINISTER-COUNSELOR RUYTER CALLED ON EA DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND DECEMBER 21 TO OBTAIN
DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS OF SITUATION IN SOUTH PACIFIC. CALL
FOLLOWED DECEMBER 19 ARTICLE ON ISLANDS IN WASHINGTON POST
WHICH WAS REPEAT OF NOVEMBER CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
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REPORT. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER RUYTER WAS CALLING ON
INSTRUCTIONS OR ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

2. EDMOND OUTLINED US POSITION WITH REGARD TO ISLANDS
NOTING THAT WE CONTINUE TO LOOK TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND TO TAKE LEAD IN AID EFFORTS. USG, HOWEVER, DOES

WANT TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INTEREST IN IMPROVING ECONOMIC/
SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND IS INVESTIGATING VARIOUS AREAS WHERE
A MODEST CONTRIBUTION MIGHT HAVE AN IMPACT. WHILE
INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING, IT APPEARED THAT ASSISTANCE IN
THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FAMILY PLANNING
MIGHT HAVE SOME MERIT. A TWO-MAN STUDY TEAM WILL BE
VISITING THE AREA IN JANUARY TO FURTHER DEFINE POSSIBILI-
TIES. EDMOND NOTED THAT INABILITY OF ISLAND GOVERNMENTS

TO ABSORB MAJOR AID PROGRAMS OR DEAL WITH COMPLICATED AID
PROCEDURES EFFECTIVELY RULED OUT MANY PROGRAMS. USG IS
CONSIDERING TRYING TO INVOLVE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHERE
POSSIBLE. PEACE CORPS PROGRAM WOULD BE CONTINUED AND
WE CONTINUE TO TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO ASSIST WITH
ISLANDS' SHIPPING PROBLEMS.

3. WITH REGARD TO FRG INTERESTS IN AREA, RUYTER
DISCOUNTED STRENGTH OF QUOTE TRADITIONAL UNQUOTE TIES
AND INDICATED THERE WAS LESS TO CENTURY OLD GERMAN-TONGAN
TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP THAN MET THE EYE. HE THOUGHT FRG
INTEREST IN ANY BILATERAL PROGRAM WAS MINIMAL BUT THAT
SOME LIMITED ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE GIVEN IN FORM OF
SCHOLARSHIPS OR TECHNICAL AID. HE NOTED THAT FRG
CONTRIBUTES SOME 30 PERCENT OF THE EEC DEVELOPMENT AID
BUDGET AND THUS INDIRECTLY ASSISTED SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND
STATES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF LOME CONVENTION.
ROBINSON

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